

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 207233
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DRAFTED BY:EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
APPROVED BY:EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
EUR/SOV:JHUFF
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207233

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 17691 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LENINGRAD
DATED JULY 28, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17691

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, PINT, UR, US
SUBJECT: PENTECOSTALS IN EMBASSY

REF: MOSCOW 17407

1. SUMMARY: RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE
TO KORNIYENKO RE PENTECOSTALISTS WERE PASSED TO
THEM JULY 27. THEY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR HIS
INTERVENTION, BUT REAFFIRMED INTENTION TO STAY
IN EMBASSY UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS ARE MET. THEY
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PAGE 02 STATE 207233

SUBMITTED APPEALS TO GROMYKO FOR EXIT PERMISSION
ANNOUNCING THEY WOULD RELEASE TEXT TO PRESS IF
SATISFACTORY REPLY NOT RECEIVED. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE TO PENTECOSTALISTS RE
RESULTS OF HIS MEETING WITH KORNIYENKO, PER PARA
5 REFTEL, WAS DELIVERED MORNING JULY 27 BY CONSULAR

COUNSELOR TD PYOTR VASHCHENKO WITH FOLLOWING
POINTS:

A. AMBASSADOR TOON, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED
TO MOSCOW FROM A TRIP OUTSIDE OF THE SOVIET
UNION, HAS CAREFULLY READ THE APPEAL YOU ADDRESSED
TO HIM;

B. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU
THAT HE IS FULLY SYMPATHETIC WITH YOUR REQUESTS,
AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE DIFFICULTY OF YOUR
SITUATION;

C. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR APPEAL TO HIM,
AMBASSADOR TOON ON JULY 25 RAISED YOUR CASE
AT THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL OF THE SOVIET
GOVERNMENT, WITH THE ACTING MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS;

D. THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, AFTER LISTENING
TO THE DETAILS OF YOUR CASE, ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR
THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE PUNISHED UNLESS YOU HAD
VIOLATED SOVIET LAW, AND THAT YOUR APPLICATION
TO LEAVE THE USSR WOULD BE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION,
IN ACCORD WITH STANDARD SOVIET PRACTICE;

E. THE AMBASSADOR, WHO HAS HAD EXTENSIVE
EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS, FEELS THAT WE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 207233

CANNOT EXPECT ANY MORE FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT
THAN THE ASSURANCES GIVEN HIM BY THE ACTING
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS;

F. THE AMBASSADOR STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT YOU
HAVE NOW ACHIEVED EVERYTHING YOU POSSIBLY CAN
BY REMAINING IN THE EMBASSY: THE EMBASSY HAS
REPEATEDLY RAISED YOUR CASE AT THE WORKING LEVEL
WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, AND NOW THE AMBASSADOR
HAS RAISED IT AT THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL;
IN ADDITION, YOU HAVE RECEIVED WORLD-WIDE
PUBLICITY, SYMPATHY, AND PRAYERS OF FELLOW
BELIEVERS.

G. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES YOU CANNOT IMPROVE
YOUR SITUATION BY FURTHER PROLONGING YOUR STAY
HERE; HE WILL SEE THAT THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO
DO ALL IT CAN TO ASSIST YOUR EMIGRATION TO THE
UNITED STATES, BUT HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE TIME
HAS COME FOR YOU TO LEAVE THE EMBASSY, AND
HE ASKS THAT YOU DO SO.

2. PYOTR VASHCHENKO OBVIOUSLY MOVED, EXPRESSED
HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S INTERVENTION
IN THE FAMILY'S CASE AND FOR THE MANY KIND-

NESSSES SHOWN TO THEM BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL. HE REPLIED IN NEGATIVE, HOWEVER, TO REQUEST THAT FAMILY LEAVE EMBASSY ON BASIS OF ASSURANCES OF ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ON GROUNDS THAT MANY YEARS EXPERIENCE HAVE PROVED TO PENTECOSTALISTS THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES CANNOT BE TRUSTED. MOST RECENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE, THEY HAD LIED ABOUT THE FATE OF THEIR SON, YOAN, WHOM THE MILITIA SEIZED WHEN REST OF FAMILY BROKE INTO EMBASSY. AT VERY MOMENT WHEN SOVIET AUTHORITIES WERE REPORTING TO EMBASSY THAT HE HAD BEEN RELEASED AND SENT HOME, HE WAS IN FACT UNDER SDVIET DETENTION AND BEING BEATEN UNMERCIFULLY. WHEN HIS DAUGHTER TRIED TO CALL FAMILY FROM HOME TOWN, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 207233

THEY PULLED HER AWAY FROM PHONE BY HER HAIR. SHE WAS FINALLY PERMITTED TO MAKE THE PHONE CALL ON JULY 11, THREE DAYS AFTER TELEGRAM FROM EMBASSY HAD BEEN DESPATCHED TO HER.

3. VASHCHENKO INSISTED THAT FAMILY WILL NOT LEAVE EMBASSY VOLUNTARILY, BUT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THEIR FATE SHOULD EMBASSY EVICT THEM. CONSULAR COUNSELOR ASSURED VASHCHENKO THAT WE WOULD NOT FORCE THEM OUT, BUT REITERATED THAT IT WAS IN THEIR OWN BEST INTERESTS TO LEAVE.

4. AS MEETING WAS ABOUT TO END, VASHCHENKO PRESENTED COUNSELOR WITH HAND-WRITTEN APPEALS TO GROMYKO (ONE GENERAL APPEAL ON BEHALF OF VASHCHENKO-CHMIKHALOVA FAMILY MEMBERS PLUS SEVEN INDIVIDUAL APPEALS WRITTEN BY EACH) TO REVOKE THEIR SOVIET CITIZENSHIP AND PERMIT THEIR EMIGRATION TO U.S., A GOAL THEY HAVE BEEN PURSUING SINCE 1961.

5. VASHCHENKO ASKED COUNSELOR TO SEE TO DELIVERY OF APPEALS TO GROMYKO, IF POSSIBLE, IN ANY WAY EMBASSY SEES FIT. IF EMBASSY DOES NOT FIND IT FEASIBLE TO DO SO, HE CONTINUED, PENTECOSTALS WOULD UNDERSTAND AND ENTERTAIN NO HARD FEELINGS. HOWEVER, HE STATED HE HAS DUPLICATE COPY OF THE APPEALS AND IF SATISFACTORY REPLY FROM GROMYKO NOT FORTHCOMING, GROUP WILL RELEASE THEM TO THE PRESS.

6. COUNSELOR STATED THAT EMBASSY NORMALLY DOES NOT ACT AS CHANNEL FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 05 STATE 207233

SOVIET CITIZENS AND THEIR OFFICIALS BUT THAT HE
WOULD INFORM THE AMBASSADOR OF THEIR REQUEST.

7. COMMENT: WE INTEND TO INFORM VASHCHENKO THAT,
AS THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY INDICATED, THERE
IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED FROM OUR MAKING FURTHER
APPROACHES TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT: THE ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER HAS GIVEN THE OFFICIAL POSITION
OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT; GROMYKO WOULD SAY
NOTHING MORE THAN HIS FIRST DEPUTY HAS ALREADY
SAID. MOREOVER, THE AMBASSADOR WAS DISTURBED
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TOON UNQUOTE VANCE

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR, JR.

APPROVED BY:EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207233

MUNICH FOR FRISBIE

FOL STATE 207233 SENT INFO WARSAW BUDAPEST BUCHAREST
BELGRADE PRAGUE SOFIA AUG 16, 1978

QUOTE

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